

COP27 highlights

Biden says U.S. will ‘do our part to avert’ a ‘climate hell’ during address in Egypt

Updated November 11, 2022 at 2:42 p.m. EST | Published November 11, 2022 at 7:00 a.m. EST

🔊 1 min ↗ 📌

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt — President Biden pledged that the United States will “do our part to avert” a “climate hell,” citing a warning by the U.N. secretary general earlier this week in Sharm el-Sheikh, the Egyptian resort city hosting this year’s U.N. Climate Change Conference. **Show more** ▾

Key updates

- ◆ Some from climate-vulnerable nations disappointed in Biden's speech
- |
- ◆ Biden calls out China — though not by name — for past global coal plant funding
- |
- ◆ Biden says U.S. leading on climate ‘with urgency and determination’

Here's what to know:

As the president spoke about Indigenous people having the solutions to climate change, a war cry came from the audience. Four protesters held a banner reading “People vs. Fossil Fuels,” before being quieted by security.

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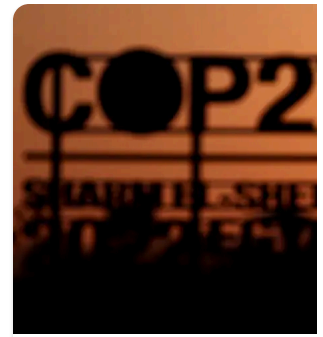
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2:42 p.m. EST



‘Everyone has to act,’ Biden tells COP27, as developing nations slam U.S.

[Matt Viser](#), [Timothy Puko](#) and [Sarah Kaplan](#)

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt — President Biden sought to assure a global summit Friday that the United States is committed to confronting climate change, but poor nations pushed back against the large U.S. delegation in attendance, demanding that the world’s richest countries pay more to help.

This is an excerpt from a full story.

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2:26 p.m. EST



Biden announces major aid package to help Egypt transition to clean energy

[Allyson Chiu](#)

Biden in his remarks announced a major aid package — in collaboration with the E.U. and Germany — that he said would help drive Egypt’s transition to clean energy.

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2:17 p.m. EST



World’s museums urge climate activists targeting ‘irreplaceable’ art to stop

[Adela Suliman](#)

LONDON — From Claude Monet to Andy Warhol, several of the world’s greatest artists have had their masterpieces targeted this year by protesters seeking to draw global attention to the [climate change](#) emergency. Now, art galleries are pushing back.

This is an excerpt from a full story.

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2:03 p.m. EST



From nuclear power to bamboo: The climate solutions at COP27

[Pranshu Verma](#)

Homes built out of bamboo shoots. Zero-emission hydrogen fuels for cars and jets. Small nuclear reactors to power Africa. Restoring ocean mangroves to store carbon.

Dozens of world leaders are gathered in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, this week for the U.N. climate summit, known as COP27. They’re debating how to minimize the dangers of climate change and looking toward experimental technologies for help, as worries reach new highs.

This is an excerpt from a full story.

1:19 p.m. EST



Some from climate-vulnerable nations disappointed in Biden's speech

[Sarah Kaplan](#)

Biden touted a swath of U.S. climate achievements, both domestic and in partnership with other countries. But he didn't offer the thing people from climate-vulnerable countries most wanted to hear: support for a dedicated fund to help disaster-struck nations pay for the consequences of climate change.

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12:56 p.m. EST



Indigenous protesters hoist banner during Biden speech, lose conference badges

[Sarah Kaplan](#)

As President Biden spoke about Indigenous people having the solutions to climate change, a war cry came from the audience. Four protesters held a banner reading "People vs. Fossil Fuels," before being quieted by U.N. security.

Jacob Johns, one of the protesters, said they were taken into a side room after the speech and told their conference badges were being suspended. Pending a decision from the agency running the conference, they could no longer attend COP27.

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12:11 p.m. EST



Biden calls out China – though not by name – for past global coal plant funding

[Steven Mufson](#) and [Michael Birnbaum](#)

President Biden took a glancing shot at China for its role in expanding coal plants, but was careful not to mention it by name.

“If countries can finance coal in developing countries, there’s no reason why we can’t finance clean energy in developing countries,” Biden said Friday in his speech at COP27 in Egypt.

Biden’s comments reflect his delicate dance with Beijing over climate policy, as he navigates the overall U.S. relationship with the world’s largest country.

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12:04 p.m. EST



Biden highlights efforts to cut methane, calling it essential to limit warming

[Brady Dennis](#)

During his remarks Friday at COP27 in Egypt, President Biden underscored his administration’s push to cut emissions of methane, a potent greenhouse gas.

Biden noted that the United States led the effort to create a [Global Methane Pledge](#), in which scores of countries have vowed to agree to help reduce global methane emissions at least 30 percent by 2030, compared to 2020 levels.

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11:50 a.m. EST



Biden touts U.S. efforts to support global climate adaptation

[Allyson Chiu](#)

In his speech, President Biden ran through a laundry list of ways the United States is contributing to global climate adaptation efforts and announced millions of dollars in additional funding to help build resiliency.

“Climate crisis is hitting hardest those countries and communities that have the fewest resources to respond and to recover,” he said.

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11:09 a.m. EST



Matt Viser

Asked how he plans to convince Republicans to fund his climate initiatives, President Biden replied: “Reality.”

11:09 a.m. EST



Biden says Ukraine war ‘only enhances the urgency’ for global transition from fossil fuels

Allyson Chiu

President Biden decried Russia’s “brutal attack” against Ukraine and said the ongoing war “only enhances the urgency of the need to transition the world off its dependence on fossil fuels.”

With the “upheaval we’re seeing around the world,” Biden said “it’s more urgent than ever that we double down on our climate commitments.”

The president emphasized the importance that every nation is benefiting from “clean, diversified energy.”

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11:03 a.m. EST



Matt Viser

As he walked with Egyptian President Abdel Fatah El-Sisi while leaving the hall where he made his speech, President Biden was asked about Alaa Abdel Fattah, the detained British Egyptian activist on hunger and water strike in prison. Biden responded: “What we talked about is the relationship between the United States and Egypt.” He patted Sisi on the shoulder.

10:52 a.m. EST



[Sarah Kaplan](#)

All day, U.S. officials here in Egypt have been promoting the Biden administration’s climate efforts, especially the Inflation Reduction Act, which is projected to reduce U.S. emissions by about 40 percent. But they’ve gotten pushback from critics who say the United States has not fulfilled its obligations to provide financial support to other countries. This second section of his speech, in which President Biden describes the contributions his administration has made, appears aimed at addressing that. “We’re not ignoring the harbingers that are already here,” he said.

10:51 a.m. EST



Biden says U.S. leading on climate ‘with urgency and determination’

[Brady Dennis](#)

President Biden wasted little time Friday touting his administration’s climate record before a crowd at COP27 in Egypt.

The United States is “meeting the climate crisis with urgency and determination,” Biden told delegates at the U.N. climate summit, saying his efforts would help ensure “a cleaner, healthier and safer planet for us all.”

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10:47 a.m. EST



[Maxine Joselow](#)

Listening to President Biden’s speech, I’m struck by the fact that he’s touting the Inflation Reduction Act and other actions that would reduce U.S. emissions and help U.S. businesses but would do nothing to help other countries. Then again, greenhouse gas emissions know no borders.

10:27 a.m. EST



GOP lawmakers tout nuclear, natural gas at Egypt summit

Brady Dennis

A group of Republican lawmakers pushed back Friday against what one called “radical environmentalism,” arguing that demonizing fossil fuels is not a productive way to fight climate change.

“We need to decide as a world, do we hate greenhouse gas emissions, or do we hate fossil fuels?” Rep. John Curtis (R-Utah) said Friday during a panel discussion at COP27 alongside other members of the Conservative Climate Caucus.

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10:20 a.m. EST



Sarah Kaplan

Sharm el-Sheikh

It’s quiet outside the hall where President Biden is speaking. Despite fears that it would be difficult to get tickets to see the president, activists tell me they had no trouble getting inside. Maybe most folks decided to watch online. Or maybe they’re not that interested in hearing his speech.

10:17 a.m. EST



Biden meets with Egyptian president to ‘discuss a full range of bilateral issues’

Allyson Chiu

Ahead of a meeting with Egyptian President Abdel Fatah El-Sisi, President Biden said the two leaders planned to “discuss a full range of bilateral issues,” including “continuing our dialogue on human rights.”

Along with other U.S. leaders attending COP27, Biden is facing pressure to press Sisi on the case of detained British-Egyptian activist Alaa Abdel Fattah, who is on a hunger and water strike in prison outside Cairo.

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10:06 a.m. EST



Matt Viser

John Kerry and Joe Biden share a long history. They served in the Senate together, both harboring presidential ambitions. And Kerry gave Biden a boost in his 2020 campaign. That history was evident here at the start of a meeting with the Egyptian president. “Thank you for reminding us of this crisis,” President Biden said. “That’s why we sent our best, Secretary Kerry, who has forgotten more about the environment than most people know.”

9:47 a.m. EST



As Biden touts U.S. climate action, Congress has yet to fund promised aid

Brady Dennis

President Biden and other administration officials and Democratic lawmakers are busy touting the Inflation Reduction Act and other recent actions in the United States to supercharge clean energy and combat climate change.

But for all the initiatives Biden has pursued, his pledge to provide \$11.4 billion annually to help poor countries transition to clean energy and adapt to the ravages of climate change has yet to be fully funded.

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9:13 a.m. EST



Protest leader: ‘The U.S. has no sympathy, has no empathy’

[Sarah Kaplan](#)

The climate activists’ protest Friday was timed to coincide with President Biden’s arrival in Egypt for a brief appearance at COP27.

Activists say the leader of the world’s richest country and largest historical emitter of greenhouse gases has a moral obligation to commit to payments for the consequences of emissions.

But the United States has long resisted such financial commitments at U.N. climate talks, fearing legal liability for the trillions of dollars of damage related to climate change.

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9:07 a.m. EST



Democrats highlight impacts of extreme weather in home states

[Allyson Chiu](#)

As Rep. Kathy Castor (D-Fla.) joined House Democrats at COP27 to speak about the United States’ efforts to address climate change, the congresswoman briefly called attention to the plight of her home state of Florida, which was hit again by a powerful storm this week — less than two months after being battered by one of the strongest hurricanes in U.S. history.

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9:01 a.m. EST



Protesters’ blue clothing simulates ‘flood’ in Pakistan, elsewhere

[Sarah Kaplan](#)

Protesters said they are wearing blue to simulate a “flood” — an echo of the floodwaters that deluged Pakistan this year, affecting tens of millions and causing \$30 billion of damage, and of the flooding that will result from rising oceans in the future if the world does not reduce greenhouse gas emissions and shift away from fossil fuels.

After several minutes of chanting, more protesters arrived with a long blue banner, raising and lowering it to simulate a wave.

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8:53 a.m. EST



Climate activists protest: ‘No more blah, blah, blah!’

Sarah Kaplan

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt — More than 100 people gathered at the center of the COP27 venue to call on wealthy countries to pay for the irreversible harms of climate change Friday.

The protest began with startling silence, as three women clad in blue gowns slowly waved their arms in circles.

Behind them, other activists in blue held signs that read “Polluters Pay up” and “reparations for damage to water.”

Then a single voice called out: “What do we want?”

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8:46 a.m. EST



Family of detained activist on water strike asks Biden to demand release and proof of life

Siobhán O'Grady

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt — The family of a detained British-Egyptian activist on hunger and water strike in prison outside of Cairo is calling on President Biden to demand his release and “insist on receiving proof of life” when he meets with his Egyptian counterpart at the U.N. Climate Conference in Egypt on Friday.

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8:39 a.m. EST



Lead negotiator for developing countries endorses fossil fuel tax

[Sarah Kaplan](#)

The chief climate negotiator for the largest bloc of developing nations told The Washington Post he “wholeheartedly” supports the idea of taxing fossil fuel companies to pay for “loss and damage” — the irreversible harms from climate change that are already bombarding the developing world.

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8:26 a.m. EST



‘Democrats are prepared to fight’ for climate change, says Rep. Pallone

[Allyson Chiu](#)

Rep. Frank Pallone Jr. (D-N.J.) said Democrats will continue to fight for climate action “regardless of what happens” with the results of the midterm elections.

“I just want our global partners to know that Democrats are prepared to fight any Republican attempts to undermine” gains the country has made, said Pallone, chair of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, who spoke at a COP27 event in Egypt alongside other House Democrats.

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7:58 a.m. EST



Pelosi says ‘historic’ Inflation Reduction Act shows U.S. leadership

[Brady Dennis](#)

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi told delegates at the COP27 summit in Egypt on Friday that the landmark climate legislation Congress passed this summer was “so historic in terms of its vision” and has spread hope far beyond U.S. borders.

Pelosi said that in their short time at the U.N. climate summit, U.S. lawmakers have received praise for the Inflation Reduction Act, which dedicates roughly \$369 billion to boosting renewable energy and combating climate change.

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7:42 a.m. EST



Climate activists stage protests at COP27

Washington Post staff

Climate activists this week staged small rallies during the COP27 climate conference in Egypt, where public demonstrations are effectively banned.

6:55 a.m. EST



Democratic senators say greatest climate fear is threats to democracy

Sarah Kaplan

At the COP27 climate conference in Egypt on Friday, Democratic senators speaking on a panel said their greatest climate fear wasn’t continued emissions or climate tipping points, but global threats to democracy.

“It’s threatened in the United States and around the world,” said Sen. Ben Cardin (Md.). Rising corruption, attacks on elections and other efforts to undermine trust in democratic institutions erode “our confidence in the ability of our political system to resolve this issue.”

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6:50 a.m. EST



As wealthy nations take heat for warming planet, coalition unveils lofty plan

Steven Mufson, Evan Halper, Timothy Puko and Sarah Kaplan

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt — With international climate aid yet to win support in Congress, the Biden administration has orchestrated a new proposal from major philanthropies and companies that would funnel private money to developing countries for clean energy development.

This is an excerpt from a full story.

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6:47 a.m. EST



House Republicans to push nuclear power, natural gas at COP27

Maxine Joselow and Vanessa Montalbano

House Republicans heading to the United Nations climate conference in Egypt plan to argue that nuclear power and natural gas are essential to meeting global climate goals, the head of the delegation said Monday, even as some climate activists criticize the two technologies.

This is an excerpt from a full story.

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